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BOOK REVIEWS

Young Folks' Library. Third Edition, revised in conference by THOMAS BAILEY ALDRICH, Editor-in-Chief, PRESIDENT WILLIAM JEWETT TUCKER, HAMILTON W. MABIE, HENRY VAN DYKE, NATHAN H. DOLE. Twenty volumes, illustrated. Boston: Hall & Locke Co.; Chicago: Auxiliary Educational League, 540 Fine Arts Building.

This is an era of books and more books. Publishers are no longer content to issue books in singles; they come at one with sets of encyclopedic scope. It is the set of books that needs to be regarded with great suspicion. It is difficult enough to find a single volume that is worth a permanent place in one's library, and a publisher is assuming a good deal when he asks you to make a place for his latest issue; but, *sets of books!* They are apt to be such thin dilutions, such transparent attempts to wring the last cent, such ranting and drivel in gilt and turkey red, that one need not be taken in unless he chooses this way to dispense sweet charity.

But there are sets of books that are different, and the one forming the subject of this review is one of the exceptions. Here is a set of twenty volumes dealing with myth, legend, history, science, poetry, tales of men and beasts—all in accord with an intelligent plan and in the original classic forms in which they were first given to the world. These books, ranging through the fields of literature and science, have been edited by competent men whose names are a guarantee to the worth of the work. The series is so planned as to meet the needs and tastes of readers from the kindergarten stage to the period of maturity. The school or family, therefore, that owns the set possesses a library of comprehensive scope and of classic merit.

Within the compass of a review it is impossible to go into the details of each volume, but a list of the titles with the editors will give at least a fair notion of the scope and grade of the work.

- I. *The Story Teller*.....Charles E. Norton
- II. *The Merry Maker*.....Joel C. Harris
- III. *Famous Fairy Tales*.....Roswell Field
- IV. *Tales of Fantasy*.....Tudor Jenks
- V. *Myths and Legends*.....Thomas J. Shahan
- VI. *The Animal Story Book*.....Ernest Thompson Seton
- VII. *School and College Days*.....Kirk Monroe and Mary H. Catherwood
- VIII. *Book of Adventure*.....Nathan H. Dole
- IX. *Famous Explorers*.....Edwin E. Sparks
- X. *Brave Deeds*.....John L. Trowbridge
- XI. *Wonders of Earth, Sea, and Sky*.....Edward S. Holden
- XII. *Famous Travels*.....George A. Henty
- XIII. *Sea Stories*.....Cyrus T. Brady
- XIV. *A Book of Natural History*.....David S. Jordan
- XV. *Historic Scenes in Fiction*.....Henry Van Dyke

- XVI. *Famous Battles by Land and Sea*..... John D. Long
 XVII. *Men Who Have Risen*..... Hamilton W. Mabie
 XVIII. *Book of Patriotism*..... George F. Hoar
 XIX. *Leaders of Men, or History Told in Biography*..... William R. Harper
 XX. *Famous Poems*..... Selected by Thomas B. Aldrich

Each volume has about four hundred pages, and contains at the end brief biographical notes of the authors whose writings appear in the volume, and also a well-selected list of books designed for supplementary reading and further study. Accompanying the set is an additional volume called the key. This is a book of reference containing complete indexes, a pronouncing vocabulary, notes on literary sources and on names and places, events, references, and allusions in the different volumes composing the set. This feature is an exceedingly valuable one and greatly enhances the usability of the work. The series can be recommended without qualification.

W. S. JACKMAN.

The Western United States. By HAROLD W. FAIRBANKS. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co. Pp. 302; 135 illustrations.

This is an excellent geographical reader, written by one personally familiar with the western part of our country and interested in educational work. Professor Fairbanks states in his preface that in the preparation of this book he has had in mind the needs of the upper grammar grades. The book may, however, be highly recommended for supplementary reading in connection with high-school courses in physical geography or physiography. The book does not cover "the field of western geography in a systematic manner, but instead . . . pictures . . . as graphically as may be, some of its more striking and interesting physical features, and the influence which these features have exerted upon its discovery and settlement." Among the very interesting chapters in the book are the following: "A Trip into the Grand Canyon of the Colorado;" "How the Columbia Plateau Was Made;" "The Canyons of the Sierra Nevada Mountains;" "The Last Volcanic Eruptions in the United States;" "The Mud Volcanoes of the Colorado Desert;" "The Story of Great Salt Lake;" "Death Valley;" "The Pony Express;" "How Climate and Physical Features Influenced the Settlement of the West."

The Frozen North. By EDITH HORTON. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co., 1904. Pp. 157; illustrated.

The secondary title of this work is *An Account of Arctic Exploration for Use in Schools*. The book consists of a series of short sketches, written presumably for children in the upper grades, and furnishing interesting accounts of the explorations into the far North. The famous journeys from the time of Sir John Franklin to those of 1902 are so well told that the reader could not fail to appreciate the main geographic features of the North Frigid Zone, and to know something of the hardships which the pioneers of exploration in that country endured. There are also chapters descriptive of the strange people who inhabit these cold countries — their dress, their ways of living, their customs, and their manners.